Remarks

Claims 1-17 are currently pending in the Application.

Summary of claim amendments

This response amends Claims 1-9 and 11-15 to clarify the language of the claims. Support for the amendments can be found, for example, in Figure 4 and corresponding text in the specification. No new matter has been added.

35 U.S.C. §103(a) Rejection

Claims 1-17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious in view of Ma (U.S. Patent No. 6,795,867) and further in view of Brendel (U.S. Patent No. 6,772,333).

Claims 1-10 and 16

Applicant submits that Ma and Brendel do not disclose, suggest or teach, *inter alia*, at least the following features recited by amended Claim 1 of the present application:

> "the **gatekeeper receiving incoming messages**; and the **gatekeeper dispatching** received **messages among the plurality of sub-processes,** wherein the received messages that belong to the same call are dispatched to the same sub-process" (emphasis added)

The Examiner asserts that the "sub-processes" as recited in Claim 1 are disclosed by Ma's gatekeepers "302-306 and 352-356." See page 2, last line to page 3, lines 1-2 of the Official Action. Applicant respectfully traverses the Examiner's assertion.

Applicant submits that contrary to the Examiner's assertions, Ma's gatekeepers "302-306 and 352-356" do not disclose or suggest the "sub-processes" as recited in amended Claim 1, because Claim 1's "sub-processes" receive messages from a gatekeeper, **not** from a gateway like Ma's gatekeepers "302-306 and 352-356." See Figure 4 of Ma.

According to Ma, one of the gatekeepers "302-306, 352-356" forwards a message received from one of the gateways "230, 236" to one of the load management units "308,

310, 312, 358." Upon the receipt of the message, the load management unit "308, 310, 312, 358" determines whether the message is to be serviced by the original gatekeeper "302-306, 352-356" or another new gatekeeper "302-306, 352-356." If the message is to be serviced by the original gatekeeper, the original gatekeeper completes and services a call associated with the received message. If the message is to be serviced by another gatekeeper, the original gatekeeper transmits a redirect message to the original gateway, wherein upon the receipt of the redirect message the original gateway sends a new message to the newly assigned gateway.

Ma does not teach, disclose or suggest "the gatekeeper receiving incoming messages; and the gatekeeper dispatching received messages among the plurality of sub-processes, wherein the received messages that belong to the same call are dispatched to the same sub-process" as recited in amended Claim 1, because Ma's gatekeepers "302-306, 352-356" do not receive messages from another gatekeeper but rather from a gateway and Ma's gatekeepers "302-306, 352-356" also do not dispatch messages received from the gateways "230, 236" to any sub-processes. Hence, Claim 1 is patentable over Ma and Brendel and should be allowed by the Examiner. Claims 2-10 and 16, at least based on their dependency on Claim 1, are also believed to be patentable over Ma and Brendel.

Claims 11-12
Applicant submits that, at least for the reasons stated above for Claim 1, Ma and Brendel do not teach, disclose or suggest "a gatekeeper for receiving incoming messages and hosting a plurality of sub-processes each able to process a series of messages, wherein the gatekeeper is adapted to dispatch the received messages onto those different sub-processes, and further wherein the gatekeeper has means for identifying whether a received message belongs to a same call as a previously received message, and, in that case, sending this received message to the sub-process that processed the previously received message" as recited in amended Claim 11. Hence, Claim 11 is patentable over Ma and Brendel and should be allowed by the Examiner. Claim 12, at least based on its dependency on Claim 11, is also believed to be patentable over Ma and Brendel.

Claims 13-14

Applicant submits that, at least for the reasons stated above for Claim 1, Ma and Brendel
do not teach, disclose or suggest "the gatekeeper comprising means for dispatching
incoming messages onto a plurality of sub-processes, the gatekeeper being able to
identify whether a received message belongs to a same call as a previously received
message, and, in that case, being able to send this received message to the sub-process
that processed said previously received message" as recited in amended Claim 13. Hence,
Claim 13 is patentable over Ma and Brendel and should be allowed by the Examiner.
Claim 14, at least based on its dependency on Claim 13, is also believed to be patentable
over Ma and Brendel.

Claims 15 and 17

Applicant submits that, at least for the reasons stated above for Claim 1, Ma and Brendel
do not teach, disclose or suggest "the gatekeeper receiving incoming messages; the
gatekeeper decoding received message only partially, the decoded part including said one
or several fields which contain those data; and the gatekeeper dispatching received
messages among the plurality of sub-processes, wherein the received messages that
belong to the same call are dispatched to the same sub-process" as recited in amended
Claim 15. Hence, Claim 15 is patentable over Ma and Brendel and should be allowed by
the Examiner. Claim 17, at least based on its dependency on Claim 15, is also believed to
be patentable over Ma and Brendel.

The Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned to discuss any other
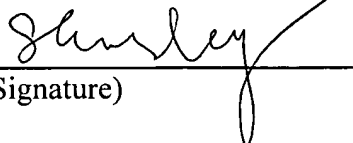issues requiring resolution.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of all the claims are respectfully solicited.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required or credit overpayment to deposit account no. 08-2025. In particular, if this response is not timely filed, then the Commissioner is authorized to treat this response as including a petition to extend the time period pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136 (a) requesting an extension of time of the number of months necessary to make this response timely filed and the petition fee due in connection therewith may be charged to deposit account no. 08-2025.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being
deposited with the United States Post Office with
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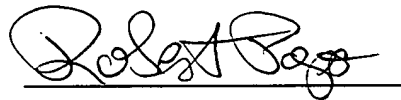Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on

February 6, 2006
(Date of Deposit)

Shannon Tinsley
(Name of Person Signing)

(Signature)

February 6, 2006
(Date)

Respectfully submitted,

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